

Martin County JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

Ten pages

Police chief makes several requests at council meeting

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

The Loogootee City Council and Board of Public Works and Safety met Monday night, March 8.

Police Chief Jim Floyd recommended approving Trenton Neely and Jonah Shaw as reserve officers. The council approved. He also requested a special meeting be held in order to go over applications for part-time police officers.

Floyd requested an additional appropriation be approved from the LOIT (Local Option Income Tax) fund for \$2,500 to purchase ammunition. Floyd said that there is a shortage of ammo for purchase, and he has a contact who has a bulk amount available for him. He's not sure how much he will be able to get but said that due to the inability to find ammunition, he would like to get as much as he can to stockpile. He said that he has an officer going to the academy soon and the police department is required to supply 1,000 rounds of ammunition to send with the officer. They also have training that needs to be done each year, with day and night shooting. The ammunition fund currently contains \$500, and Floyd said 1,000 rounds of ammunition costs roughly \$740. The council approved the additional money request although it has to be advertised first.

Chief Floyd also requested the council change the uniform allowance payments. He said that currently officers are provided \$400 twice a year, in June and December, to purchase uniforms. He would prefer to allow officers to buy what they need when they need it and after the six-month period, get a payout if anything is remaining in their uniform allowance. The council said they would have to wait until next month to change the salary ordinance.

The council approved keeping first-time golf cart registrations at \$25 and repeat registrations at \$10.

Utilities Superintendent Bo Wilson talked to the board of works about a new home construction on Hopkins Lane that will encroach on the city's sewer easement. He said the house will be 13 feet away from the center line of the sewer pipe however the concrete slab of the home's front porch will be six feet away from the pipe. Wilson said he doesn't have an issue with the construction as long as something is written up and signed saying the city cannot be held liable if something goes wrong. The board of works approved the family moving forward with construction.

The city council approved purchasing a



Don't forget to set your clock forward one hour on Sunday, March 14 at 2 a.m. to recognize Daylight Saving Time

60-inch bushhog for up to \$4,000 to replace the city's current model. Superintendent Wilson said that the cost to fix the city's current bushhog will cost more than buying a new one.

The council also approved moving the water utility's current credit card payment system to CUSI. Wilson said there have been a lot of complaints from water customers who have tried to pay their bill online and had problems with the current provider. The cost to switch to CUSI will be \$1,150 - \$650 to buy two card machines and a \$500 fee to implement the terminal. The cost to the customer will remain the same at 2.5 percent per transaction. The city will pay \$1,950 per year for support and \$10 a month for each of the credit card readers. They will also have to pay 5 cents per transaction. Wilson said there are around 150-200 people who pay via credit card each month, of the 1,400 water customers.

Mayor Noel Harty suggested setting up a committee to work with Daviess County Rural Water on negotiating their contract which is up for renewal next March. Daviess County Rural Water absorbed Perry Water and there are currently two contracts with the city to provide service to customers. Superintendent Wilson said he believes that the contract with Daviess County Rural Water is for \$2.75 per 1,000 gallons and for Perry Water it's \$2.98 per 1,000 gallons. Daviess County Rural Water would like to have one contract with one rate.

Council Member Teresa Nolley said that she would probably want to charge the higher of the two rates. Wilson replied that they are going to ask for the lower rate and he doesn't think the city can raise the rate for Daviess County Rural Water but can lower the Perry Water rate.

"They are paying less than what city residents are paying," said Council Member Rick Norris.

Wilson replied that there are reasons for that stated in the contract.

Council Member Tim Lawrence asked if the city could just leave the contracts as is then.

Wilson replied that Daviess County Rural Water, per their contract, has the option of requesting negotiations within a certain time frame of contract renewal. "That's what they have done," he said.

It was decided to have the clerk-treasurer, mayor and a few council members meet with Daviess County Rural Water representatives outside a city council meeting and then report back with their requests.

Twila McPherson, who lives on Mulberry Street, said she is the owner of two dogs and would like the city to consider building a dog park. Mayor Harty said McPherson should attend the next park board meeting to discuss it with them. He then suggested she post on social media to look for volunteers to form a committee separate from the park board. Council Member Nolley said she was approached recently by a group of students who have a project started to open a dog park. She was asked to be a part of the group and agreed. She told McPherson she will let the group know of her interest in helping.

(See 'CHIEF' on page 2)

Highway issues top commissioners' meeting

BY COURTNEY HUGHETT
Martin County Journal Publisher

Commissioner Paul George started out the Martin County Commissioners' meeting Tuesday, March 9 by reading a statement regarding the Open Door Law. Due to several people asking questions about a personnel situation at the county council meeting last week, Commissioner George said that no one would be allowed to speak at the meeting, as is the commissioners' choice. They could send written statements to the courthouse to be put on the next agenda.

Highway Superintendent Scott Seals requested to purchase a new mower for the highway department. Discussion ensued on whether quotes would have to be received from more than one vendor. The mower slated for purchase, according to the commissioners, is unique and cannot be purchased from a regular dealer. County Attorney Dave Lett said that the commissioners can make an outright purchase if the equipment is considered "exceptional". The commissioners requested that Seals get a price so they could move forward with the purchase.

Superintendent Seals requested that the highway employees be allowed to have a

day off since the courthouse employees got a snow day a few weeks ago. The commissioners gave the okay. Seals also said he is in need of part-time help at the highway department and requested advertising for applications. The commissioners approved. The commissioners also approved hiring Joe Troutman as a full-time truck driver/operator to replace an employee who recently resigned.

Seals said that the bridges on Buckley Road and Mt. Pleasant Road are now open. Paving crews will be working in the area on April 10.

Tim Hunt, with HWC Engineering, reported that his firm plans to apply for a grant to extend erosion control another 300 feet on the bank of Brooks Bridge. He said they will also be talking to the property owner next to the bridge about potential crop damage.

Hunt said that federal aid for the replacement of bridge 58 on Brickyard Road is moving forward. A survey crew is on site now and they will be pursuing the most economical way to preserve the current bridge as required due to its historic value. There is a group who will be taking the bridge once removed.

County Attorney Lett said that Pineview (See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)



-Photos provided

Grant presentations

The Martin County Historical Society (MCHS) received a \$8,520 grant from the Martin County Community Foundation MCHS Fund endowment. Shown above from left to right are Curt Johnson (MCCF Director), Rick Bowling (Museum Director), Bill Greene (MCHS President) and Hope Flores (CFP CEO). The Martin County Community Foundation presented the St. Vincent de Paul Society a grant for \$5,875 from the Good Samaritan Fund of SVDP, the Martin County Food Pantry Fund, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. John Catholic Church Fund endowments. Shown below is Keith Greenwell (St. Vincent de Paul Society President) receiving the grant check from Curt Johnson (MCCF Director).



Martin County families honored with Hoosier Homestead Award

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch and Indiana State Department of Agriculture Director Bruce Kettler presented 51 Hoosier Homestead Awards to families last Friday at the Indiana State Museum in recognition of their commitment to Indiana agriculture.

To be named a Hoosier Homestead, farms must be owned by the same family for more than 100 consecutive years, and consist of 20 acres or more, or produce more than \$1,000 in agricultural products per year.

Honored from Martin County were the Beasley Family, the Centennial award for their family farm established in 1902 and the Turpin Family, the Centennial award for their family farm established in 1921.

"For generations, each of the families honored today have been committed to Indiana, to agriculture and to their families," Crouch said. "The past year has been challenging in many ways, but our agriculture industry remains strong. Hoosier farmers are a big reason why Indiana remains the 10th largest farming state. I was grateful to have the opportunity to present this award to these historic farming families."

Families are eligible for three different distinctions of the Hoosier Homestead Award, based on the age of the farm. They can receive the Centennial Award for 100 years, Sesquicentennial Award for 150 years or Bicentennial Award for 200 years of ownership.

Since the program's inception in 1976, more than 5,800 families have received the award.

Two families were recognized with the Bicentennial Award during the ceremony; the Weinantz farm from Bartholomew County was established in 1820 and the Hall farm from Orange County was established in 1818.

"The Hoosier Homestead program is a testament to the resiliency of our Indiana agriculture industry," Kettler said. "Each of these families have played a significant role in the heritage of our state and I am certain their legacy will continue for years to come."



Pictured above are the three Hoosier Homestead award signs, in order from left to right is a Centennial sign, a Sesquicentennial sign and a Bicentennial sign.

For a complete list of families honored, visit www.in.gov/isda/programs-and-initiatives/hoosier-homestead.

CHIEF

(Continued from page one)

Fire Chief JD Flynn requested the council come up with a new ordinance for burning trash within the city limits. He said he has been unable to locate the current ordinance. Right now, the city has to use the state statute on trash burning which comes with criminal charges. He said he would prefer to have an ordinance that allows the issuance of fines instead with the state statute to fall back on if needed.

It was also requested that the city council have a burn ban ordinance to issue when conditions warrant instead of waiting on the county to issue one.

Two arrested on meth charges

On Saturday, February 27, an investigation, conducted by Martin County Sheriff's Department Deputy Rob Lents, led to a consensual search of a residence at 409 Fairview Street, in Loogootee. During a search of the residence, Deputy Lents and Corporal Andrea Barnett located a small cooler containing several precursors known to be used in the manufac-

turing of methamphetamine. Suspected methamphetamine, which later field-tested positive, was also located in the residence. After completing the search, the illicit items and residence were secured by Deputy Lents. An Indiana State Police Methamphetamine Suppression Team was then called in to assist due to the presence of potentially hazardous materials.

COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

Road has been evaluated by the highway superintendent who has given the okay to add it to the county inventory for maintenance. Developers of the addition attended a previous commissioners' meeting asking that the highway department take over maintaining the road. There is another 300 feet of the road that has not been finished out and Superintendent Seals said once it is complete, it will be evaluated and brought to the commissioners for approval to add to the inventory as well. The commissioners approved adding the completed sections of Pineview Road to the county's inventory.

The commissioners approved two ordinances presented by the county attorney. Both are for the issuance of fines for companies who damage county roads or county rights-of-way, either by driving on the roads or excavating in the rights-of-way.

Companies will be required to get approval from the highway superintendent before doing any excavating work and pay a fee. Once the work is complete, the fee will be returned if there is no damage done.

Joy M. Grace, 39, of Loogootee and William R. Bradley, 34, of Loogootee, were arrested and transported to the Martin County Security Center without incident.

Assisting officers at the scene were Indiana Conservation Officer Tony Mann and Loogootee Police Department Patrolman Joshua Seymour.

Joy Marie Grace was charged with possession of precursors with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony and maintaining a common nuisance, a Class B Misdemeanor.

William Ray Bradley was charged with possession of precursors with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, a Level 6 Felony.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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JERRY HOLMES

Jerry Keith Holmes, formerly of Burns City, passed away with family by his side Monday, March 1, 2021 in Jasper. A resident of Odon, he was 60.



JERRY HOLMES

He was born May 29, 1960 in Washington; son of Don Edwin and Evelyn Jo (Garrett) Holmes. Jerry married his loving wife, Sherrie (Merritt) Holmes on April 12, 2008.

Jerry was a US Navy Veteran, serving as a Sonar Tech on the USS Kirk from 1984-1990. After his military service, he worked for Vitro and then worked Logistics at EG&G and SAIC for 23 years. He retired in 2013. Jerry was a member of the French Lick American Legion Post #76. He was a loving husband, father and friend, who enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, gardening and grilling. Jerry loved the Dallas Cowboys. He also played the guitar and helped form the band Tangent Heart and was also a bass player with the Jones Gang back in the 1990's. Jerry had a special place in his heart for cats, having rescued over twenty.

Family left to cherish the memory of Jerry include his wife, Sherrie Holmes; four sons, Michael Holmes of Odon, Michael (Kadottie) Shrader of Evansville, Daniel (Alex) Shrader of Terre Haute and Thomas (Emily) Farris of South Bend; sister, Lana (Mike) Boyd of Odon; two brothers, Donnie (Jennifer) Holmes of Burns City and James Holmes of Bloomington.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents.

A Celebration of Life is planned for 4 p.m. Saturday, April 17 at Meng Family Funeral Home in Odon. Military rites will be presented by the Odon VFW Post #9627. Jerry will be laid to rest in Sugarland Memory Gardens in Washington at a later date.

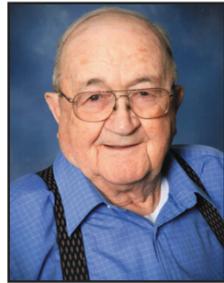
A gathering of family and fiends will be from 1 p.m. until the time of service at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 17 at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.

The Holmes family has entrusted all arrangements to the Meng Family Funeral Home in Odon. Condolences and memories may be shared online at www.mengfuneralhome.com.

HAROLD DYAL

Harold L. Dyal passed away Wednesday March 3, 2021 at St. Charles Health Campus in Jasper. A resident of Odon, he was 91.



He was born September 3, 1929 in Flint, Michigan; son of the late Glen and Estella (Smiley) Dyal.

Harold was a member of Odon United Methodist Church, and the Loogootee American Legion. He was a United States Army Veteran and served in the Korean War. Harold retired from National Gypsum as a lab technician and enjoyed spending time farming.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Glen and Estella Dyal; his daughter, Julie Ketchum; his first wife, Gladys (Tyler) Dyal; his second wife, Mary (Butcher) Dyal; his last wife, Crystal (Hembree) Dyal; his brother, Gene Dyal, and his sister, Alice Weddle.

Harold is survived by his children, Bob (Debbie) Dyal of Loogootee, Brenda (Mark) Keys of Calabash, North Carolina; Dan (Debbie) Dyal of Odon, and Harold "Buddy" (Diane) Dyal of St. Henry; two stepsons, Bill (Terri) Berry and Kenny Dages, both of Loogootee; his special friend, Agnes Wade of Washington, 20 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, eight great-great grandchildren, his brother, Jim Dyal of Anderson, and

numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Saturday March 6 at Odon United Methodist Church in Odon with Pastor Debbie Payne officiating. Burial and military rights followed in Raglesville Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be

made to the Raglesville Cemetery, Fraidy United Methodist Church, and Odon United Methodist Church.

Online condolences can be made at www.blakefuneralhomes.com. Blake Funeral home is honored to serve the family of Harold L. Dyal.

Housing Choice Voucher Program accepting applications for waiting list

Effective April 1, 2021, Hoosier Up-lands Economic Development Corporation (HUEDC), on behalf of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, will open the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Waiting List for Daviess County, Dubois County, Greene County (excludes within the city limits of Bloomfield and Linton), Lawrence County (excludes within the city limits of Bedford), Martin County, Orange County, Pike County, and Washington County. The Section 8 HCV program is available to income eligible individuals and families and exists to assist with rent payments to provide decent, affordable, sanitary, and safe housing for persons with low incomes. The Section 8 HCV program is not emergency housing assistance and your waiting time for assistance may exceed 24 months.

HUEDC will accept applications online only at the following websites:

Daviess County: www.waitlistcheck.com/IN1806-2462

Dubois County: www.waitlistcheck.com/IN1806-2467

Greene County: www.waitlistcheck.com/IN1806-2476

Lawrence County: www.waitlistcheck.com/IN1806-2495

Martin County: www.waitlistcheck.com/IN1806-2499

Orange County: www.waitlistcheck.com/IN1806-2507

Pike County: www.waitlistcheck.com/IN1806-2511

Washington County: www.waitlistcheck.com/IN1806-2536

The application portal will be available from Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 8 a.m. EDT until Friday, April 16, 2021 at 4 p.m. EDT. Please note that you will be required to create a WaitListCheck account and have a valid e-mail address in order to submit an application. A link to free e-mail providers will be included on the website for your convenience.

If you have a disability where a reasonable accommodation to allow you equal access to the application process may be needed, please contact Amy Hopper at HUEDC at (800) 827-2219 or section8@hoosieruplands.org to request an accommodation no later than Wednesday, March 17, 2021. For assistance in another language, please call IHCDA at (317) 232-7788 to schedule a phone call with an interpreter no later than Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

Applicants are placed on the list in order of preference points, then by date and time of application. IHCDA has the following preference points:

-Residency - Applicant is a legal resident of, has been hired to work in, or currently works within the county they have

applied to (If YES, you must enter the name and address of the employer OR enter in your residential address within that county)

-Person residing in an institutional setting or at risk of being placed in an institutional setting - An institutional or other segregated setting includes, but is not limited to: Congregate settings populated exclusively or primarily with individuals with disabilities; or congregate settings characterized by regimentation in daily activities, lack of privacy or autonomy, policies limiting visitors, or limits on individuals' ability to engage freely in community activities and to manage their own activities of daily living; or settings that provide for daytime activities primarily with other individuals with disabilities; or a person at risk of being placed in a setting defined above

-Working Families - Persons either attending a school/training program or working at least 20 hours per week; elderly status (age 62 and older), non-elderly disabled status (61 and under with disability), having a disabled family member (any age)

-Elderly - Applicant (Head, Spouse, Co-Head, Sole Member) is age 62 or older

-Non-Elderly Family Member with Disability - Non-elderly (61 years or younger) family, Head, Spouse, Co-Head, or sole member meets HUD's definition of disabled

-Family Member with a Disability - An individual who meets the HUD definition of a person with a disability

-Youth Exiting Foster Care - Youth that Indiana Department of Child Services has certified to be at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age who have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days and is homeless or is At Risk of Becoming Homeless

-Child Welfare Involved Families - A family that Indiana Department of Child Services has certified as a family for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the placement of the family's child, or children, in out-of-home care, or in the delay of discharge of a child, or children, to the family from out-of-home care.

Placement on the waiting list is not a guarantee that applicants will qualify for assistance. Any preferences claimed at the time of application will be verified at the time of selection from the waiting list.

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Martin County Sheriff's Department log

MONDAY, MARCH 1

7:47 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Shoals. Animal Control Officer Highett was notified.

10:10 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:29 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance south of Loogootee. Haysville Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

4:37 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance north of Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded.

8:14 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire, Sergeant Gibson, and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

8:30 p.m. - Received a report of a possible break-in in Shoals. ISP responded.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

12:46 a.m. - Received a report of a disturbance and domestic near Shoals. Captain Reed responded. The subject was transported to Daviess Community Hospital.

12:54 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded.

7:45 a.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist in Shoals with a vehicle unlock.

9:28 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:00 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

10:50 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:30 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

12:15 p.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Loogootee Chief Floyd, Loogootee Captain Hennessee, Martin County Ambulance, and Daviess County responded.

1:30 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

2:08 p.m. - Received a request for a welfare check near Shoals. Sergeant Gibson and Town Marshal Eckert responded. The subject was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital.

3:10 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

3:30 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

4:21 p.m. - Received a dog complaint near Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

5:00 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took three inmates to court.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

8:57 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance near Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded and transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:36 a.m. - Major Keller assisted a motorist north of Shoals with a vehicle identification check.

11:07 a.m. - Received a fire alarm call near Shoals. Shoals Fire, Major Keller, Deputy Seymour, and ISP Lents responded.

1:02 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:19 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person east of Shoals. Deputy Lents responded.

4:55 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

8:35 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Shoals Fire and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

1:30 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

10:30 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

11:00 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

11:30 a.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

1:00 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

2:00 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took one inmate to court.

5:43 p.m. - Deputy Lents assisted a motorist near Loogootee with a vehicle unlock.

6:40 p.m. - Town Marshal Eckert assisted a motorist in Shoals with a vehicle unlock.

6:46 p.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

7:30 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. No one was transported.

11:57 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. No one was transported.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

5:59 a.m. - Deputy Flanagan assisted a broken-down motorist in Shoals.

10:51 a.m. - Received a report of a domestic dispute in Loogootee. Reserve Deputy Harmon, Loogootee Captain Hennessee, and Deputy Seymour responded.

12:33 p.m. - Received a dog complaint north of Shoals. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

1:00 p.m. - Deputy Seymour took two inmates to court.

2:16 p.m. - Received a report of a field fire north of Shoals. Indian Creek Fire, Martin County Civil Defense, Deputy Lents, and Martin County Ambulance responded.

3:46 p.m. - Received a report of an accident east of Loogootee. ISP Trooper Beaver, Deputy Lents, and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

6:00 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

9:27 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Shoals. Deputy Lents responded.

11:38 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

5:12 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance transported the subject to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:10 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

11:57 a.m. - Received a dog complaint in Loogootee. Animal Control Officer Hughett was notified.

12:43 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious person in Loogootee. Corporal Barnett and Loogootee Police responded.

12:49 p.m. - Received a report of a fire south of Shoals. Lost River Fire, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded.

spended.

7:54 p.m. - Received a report of a reckless river north of Loogootee on US 231. Captain Reed responded.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

12:12 a.m. - Received a request for lift assistance in Loogootee. Martin County Ambulance and Loogootee Fire responded. No one was transported.

2:44 a.m. - Received a report of suspicious activity in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth responded.

3:06 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance east of Shoals. Martin County Ambulance responded but did not transport.

12:33 p.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Ambulance and Shoals Fire responded. The subject was transported to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:00 p.m. - Received a report of an accident in Shoals. Sergeant Gibson, Town Marshal Eckert, Shoals Fire, and Martin County Ambulance responded. No one was transported.

ARRESTS

MONDAY, MARCH 1

3:38 p.m. - Chadwick Funk, 41, of Ferdinand, was arrested by Sergeant Gibson and charged with invasion of privacy, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated refusal. Assisting with the arrest were Major Keller and Sheriff Roush. He is being held without bond.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

1:17 p.m. - Travis Campbell, 44, of Loogootee, was arrested by Major Keller on a Morgan County warrant and is being held without bond.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

7:35 p.m. - Jared Knepp, 26, of Montgomery, was arrested by Reserve Deputy Harmon and charged with visiting a common nuisance. His bond was set at \$5,000 10%. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth assisted with the arrest.

7:35 p.m. - Delmar Knepp, 27, of Montgomery, was arrested by Reserve Deputy Harmon and charged with visiting a common nuisance. His bond was set at \$5,000 10%. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth assisted with the arrest.

10%. Loogootee Sergeant McBeth assisted with the arrest.

9:16 p.m. - Alyssa Matheis, 35, of Loogootee, was arrested by Reserve Deputy Harmon and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, and maintaining a common nuisance. Her bond has been set at \$30,000 10%. Deputy Lents assisted with the arrest.

9:16 p.m. - Taylor Kavanaugh, 37, of Loogootee, was arrested by Reserve Deputy Harmon and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, and maintaining a common nuisance. He was set at no bond.

9:16 p.m. - Evan Helms, 21, of Loogootee, was arrested by Reserve Deputy Harmon and charged with possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, and visiting a common nuisance. His bond was set at \$5,000 10%. Deputy Lents assisted with the arrest.

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

The Daviess-Martin Medical Clinic provides treatment of acute injuries and illnesses, pediatrics, wellness checks, physical exams, immunizations, x-ray and laboratory services.



Daniell Summers, FNP-C & Dr. David Nibel



Daviess-Martin Medical Clinic of Daviess Community Hospital

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Jasonville (812) 665-3969	Bicknell (812) 735-3545	Bloomfield (812) 384-4453	

COURT NEWS

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCING

March 2

Jaime L. Kessler, convicted of driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor. Sentenced to serve 2 days with 0 days suspended and credit for 1 actual day previously served plus 1 Class A credit day.

CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

March 2

Jaime L. Kessler, driving while suspended, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

February 24

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Julie Poole, civil collection.

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Joseph Barrera, civil collection.

February 26

Cavalry SPV I, LLC vs. Darlene Wiscaver, civil collection.

Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. January Roush, civil collection.

March 1

Patrick Mattingly vs. Jessica Mattingly, petition for dissolution of marriage.

CIVIL COURT JUDGMENTS

February 23

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff LVNV Funding, LLC and against the defendant Donna (Combs) Nicholson in the amount of \$583.15.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

March 5

Brett P. Mattingly of Loogootee and Caitlin A. Lang of Loogootee.

Terry Warren Lewis of French Lick and Mary Jane Matheis of French Lick.



Wells graduates academy

-Photo provided

On, Friday March 5, Martin County Sheriff's Deputy Johnathan Wells graduated from the South West Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (SWILEA) in Evansville. He began SWILEA on October 22, 2020. SWILEA normally runs 16 weeks long, but due to the COVID pandemic, it was extended to 19 weeks. SWILEA was able to maintain in-person classes and kept everyone socially distant. The academy consists of intense training in defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operations, firearms, and criminal law. Deputy Wells was sworn in as a Deputy Sheriff on June 19, 2019 for the Martin County Sheriff's Office. He is looking forward to getting back on the road and answering calls for the community. Shown from left to right are Sheriff Travis Roush, Deputy Wells, Chief Deputy Josh Greene, and Major Keith Keller.

Non-traditional scholarships available

The Martin County Community Foundation (MCCF) is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for three non-traditional scholarships.

There are many paths to higher education... many students choose to postpone college; many move directly into the workforce, bypassing a university education altogether; others put their college careers on hold, choosing the more difficult task of raising a family. It is only later that they decide to pursue a higher education, either to improve their personal and professional opportunities, or to expand their general knowledge. We are grateful for the donors in our community who have established non-traditional scholarships for returning students. These scholarships give preference to helping a student begin or return to college or trade school, years after leaving high school. The scholarships and criteria are below.

Martin County Non-Traditional Scholarship (\$1,167)

This scholarship is for non-traditional students who meet the following criteria:

- Must be a resident of Martin County
- Must have graduated or left high school at least one year prior to applying for the scholarship
- Must seek to further their education at an accredited college, university, vocational or trade school
- Must demonstrate a need for assistance.

The Second Door Scholarship (\$637) is named after the saying "When one door closes, another one opens..."

This scholarship is for non-traditional students who meet the following criteria:

- Must be a resident of Martin County
- Must have graduated or left high school at least two years prior to applying for the scholarship
- Must demonstrate a financial need
- The scholarship cannot be used for GED test fees
- The scholarship cannot exceed the cost of course and course materials
- Applicant must provide evidence of program acceptance
- Program must be administered by a qualified institution/organization.

Terri Sullivan Callaway Scholarship (\$2,404)

This scholarship is for non-traditional students who meet the following criteria:

- Resident of Martin County
- Must have graduated or left high school at least one year prior to applying for the scholarship
- The applicant must have been accepted into a school for continuing education
- The applicant recipient must be pursuing a career in the field of nursing
- The applicant must be a member of a Christian faith church
- Priority to members of St. John Catholic Church in Martin County, Indiana.

Apply online at www.cfpartner.org/scholarships. Applications must be completed online by 3 p.m. on Monday, April 5. If you have any questions, please e-mail the MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at mccf@cfpartner.org or call 812-295-1022.

Loogootee Police log

MONDAY, MARCH 1

8:05 a.m. - Chief Floyd completed a welfare check.

8:47 a.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill responded to a residential burglar alarm.

10:08 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Cooper Street.

11:02 a.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill responded to a report of dogs outside the elementary school.

2:07 p.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill responded to a residential burglar alarm.

3:26 p.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle parked in a residential area for an extended period of time.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

9:31 a.m. - Chief Floyd assisted with a medical call at a local business.

9:42 a.m. - Captain Hennette spoke with a complainant about a possible scam.

12:15 p.m. - Chief Floyd and Captain Hennette responded to a domestic dispute on Bridgewater Street.

1:28 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Park Street.

1:29 p.m. - Captain Hennette responded to a residential burglar alarm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

8:15 a.m. - Chief Floyd completed a welfare check.

10:54 a.m. - Chief Floyd completed a welfare check.

1:15 p.m. - Chief Floyd spoke with a complainant in reference to possible drug activity.

3:58 p.m. - Chief Floyd responded to a property damage accident on West Broadway Street.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

5:51 p.m. - Officer Means and Captain

Hennette responded to a report of a male causing problems on Northeast Third Street.

6:13 p.m. - Officer Means spoke with a complainant in reference to a custody dispute.

7:22 p.m. - Officer Means responded to a domestic dispute on Southeast Third Street.

7:37 p.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Northeast Third Street.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

10:58 a.m. - Captain Hennette responded to a verbal dispute on East Main Street.

3:49 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and first responders were dispatched to the scene of an accident on Dover Hill Road.

7:58 p.m. - Sgt. McBeth completed a welfare check at a local business.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

10:06 a.m. - Received a report of two stray dogs on Cedar Street.

11:55 a.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill assisted animal control with stray dogs on Southeast First Street.

12:45 p.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill responded to a report of a suspicious male walking on JFK Avenue.

4:04 p.m. - A caller advised of possible drug activity.

5:03 p.m. - Assistant Chief Rayhill checked on a suspicious male walking on Butcher Boulevard.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

12:12 a.m. - First responders were dispatched to a medical call on Cedar Street.

2:44 a.m. - Sgt. McBeth responded to check three suspicious subjects around a residence on North Line Street.

Martin County real estate transfers

Larry Gene Winger and Charlotte T. Winger, of Martin County, Indiana to Thomas F. Morrison, Jr., of Monroe County, Indiana, Lot Numbered 56 and a strip of land six feet wide and of even width off of the west side of Lot Numbered 55 in Campbell and Breen's Addition to the town, now City of Loogootee.

Paul R. Miller and Ruby L. Miller, of Daviess County, Indiana to Cole Micah Arvin and Loryn Jade Arvin, of Dubois County, Indiana, a part of the east one half of the northwest quarter of Section 1, Township 3 North, Range 5 West, containing 8.39 acres, more or less, except sections containing 2.94 acres and 1.8225 acres, more or less.

Lisa Ann Stoll, Sherry Lynn Winger, and Dana Renee Wagler, of Martin County, Indiana to Larry Gene Winger and Charlotte T. Winger, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Numbered 56 and a strip of land six feet wide and of even width off of the west side of Lot Numbered 55 in Campbell and Breen's Addition to the town, now City of Loogootee.

Clint Alan Davis, John Edward Davis and Lori Lynn Davis, of Shelby County, Indiana to Harold L. Gingerich, of LaGrange County, Indiana, the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 19, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, containing 80 acres, more or less. Also, the north half of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 19, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, containing 20 acres, more or less.

Brian A. Dant, of Martin County, Indiana to Michael J. McAtee, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 10 in Oliver's & Taylor's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

Norman Raber, of Daviess County, Indiana to Norman Raber and Lydia Raber, of Daviess County, Indiana. Tract I: The south half of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 2, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, containing 20 acres, more or less. Tract II: The northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 11, and the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 11, all in Township 3 North, Range 3 West, containing 49.938 acres, more or less.

Jared C. Holt, of Lawrence County, Indiana to Ermin E. Holt and Darla C. Holt, of Martin County, Indiana, the north one-half of a part of the south half of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 7, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, containing 5 acres, more or less.

Misty D. Melvin, of Martin County, Indiana to Tina A. Shaw and Eric R. Shaw, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 20, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Martin County, Indiana, containing 1.7806 acres, more or less.

R. Scott Query and Mickie J. Query, of Martin County, Indiana to Dawn Rider Carter, of Martin County, Indiana, a part of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, Township 2 North, Range 3 West, Lost River Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 103.113 acres, more or less.

NOTICE:

In preparation for mowing season, spring cleanup of St. John Catholic Cemetery will take place on Saturday, March 27, 2021. All grave blankets and other ground decorations as well as obviously outdated gravestone decorations (e.g. Christmas) must be removed prior to that time. Any ground or outdated decorations remaining will be removed by the cleanup crew.

COMMUNITY & EVENTS

More Neat Stuff



By Ann Ackerman



PUNS are back again! Thanks, Wayne.

*An invisible man married an invisible woman. Their kids were nothing to look at either.

*I didn't think the chiropractor could improve my posture... but I stand corrected.

*I took my new girlfriend to the ice rink on our first date. It was half-price night. She called me a cheap-skate.

*Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the other.

*My wife claims I'm the cheapest person she's ever met. I'm not buying it.

*Did you know that a raven has 17 rigid feathers called pinions, while a crow only has 16. So, the difference between a raven and a crow is just a matter of a pinion.

*My cross-eyed wife and I just got a divorce. I found out she was seeing someone on the side.

*I told my contractor I didn't want carpeted steps. He gave me a blank stair.

*What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? Suture self.

*If a woman says, "Do what you want," do not do what you want. Stand still, don't blink, don't answer, don't even breathe. Just play dead.

*Dogs make me happy. Humans make my head hurt.

*You call it eating five boxes of Girl Scout cookies alone...I call it supporting young female entrepreneurs.

*The fact that there's a highway to hell and only a stairway to heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.

*I think senility is going to be a fairly smooth transition to me.

*Being married is like having a best friend who doesn't remember anything you say.

*Some people age like a fine wine. I aged like milk. I got sour and chunky.

*The older I get, the less surprised I think I'd be if a random body part just fell off one day.

--

Happiness is not the result of what does or does not happen to you in your life as much as your attitude about what does or does not happen. It's a decision you make. Every day.

THOUGHTS

*Some days, my coffee is like a hug in my mug. Other days it's emergency resuscitation.

*Behind every husband who thinks he wears the pants is a wife who told him which pants to wear.

* You're riding a horse full speed. There's a giraffe next to you and a lion is chasing you. What do you do? Get your drunk butt off the Merry-Go-Round.

Just a friendly reminder that when you say ignorant things about women in power, they don't hear you. But your daughters do. Your mother does. Your sisters hear you. Your nieces hear you too.

Make someone smile today!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Shoals School Board meeting
The Shoals School Board will meet Thursday, March 11 at 6 p.m. in the central administration office. The meeting is open to the public.

Board of Works meeting
The Loogootee Board of Public Works & Safety will meet in an executive session on Monday, March 15 at 6 p.m. in the council room of the municipal building. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss personnel. The meeting is closed to the public however an open meeting will be held following the executive session.

Loogootee School Board meeting
The Loogootee School Board will meet Thursday, March 18 at 5 p.m. in the LHS Media Center. The meeting is open to the public.

Equipment auction
The Shoals Community School Corporation is auctioning off old playground equipment, two welders, and pieces of the gymnasium floor. The auction will close on March 20 at 12 p.m. ET. Pick-up will be on March 23, from 3-5 p.m. ET. The Graber Auctions link can be found at <https://graber-auctions.com/catalog/266310/online-auction---shoals-community-school/>.

April Showers Festival
First Choice Solutions, formerly known as the Pregnancy Care Center, will be having a festival on April 17 at their new building located at 714 W. Walnut Street, in Washington. The festival will be from 12-4 p.m. Food, drinks, desserts and snacks will be available. Three bands will perform - Three Girls and a Mustache, Forged in Fire, and the Harvest Community Fellowship Church worship band. There will be games for kids and the festival will feature a police K9 demonstration and the fire department. The rain date for the festival is May 8.

Grief support program
A grief support program is being provided by Thorne George Funeral Homes free of charge. The program, normally \$79, can be received for free by using the coupon code "Thorne-George". The program is confidential and self-directed. Those interested can visit www.griefplan.com and click "take me to the grief plan program".

St. Vincent Food Pantry
The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, on Park Street in Loogootee, is open the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December when they are open the third Thursday. The hours are 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.

Mental Health Task Force
The Martin County Mental Health Task Force meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 1-2 p.m. at the Community Learning Center on the Martin County Fairgrounds.

Celebrate Recovery meetings
Celebrate Recovery meetings will be held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Re-

demption Church in Loogootee. This is a Christ-centered recovery program and anyone is welcome to attend.

Local recovery meetings
Wednesdays-Alcoholic Anonymous, Martin County Community Corrections Building at 8 p.m.; Thursdays-Narcotics Anonymous, Redemption Church Loogootee at 8 p.m.; Fridays-Alcoholic Anonymous, Loogootee Municipal Building Loogootee at 8 p.m.

Free lunch for kids
New Beginnings Community Church will be offering a free lunch to all school age children every Saturday. Lunches can be picked up at the fellowship hall of the church, located at 105 Wood St, Loogootee no later than 10:30 a.m. Deliveries will begin between 10:30 and 11 a.m. Saturdays.

SOAR Tutoring
Need Skills? SOAR tutors can help! Free and confidential. Call or text Karen at 812-709-1618 to learn more. Located in the Martin County Community Learning Center Improve Your Skills, Improve Your Life!

Solid waste board
The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the recycling center located at 500 Industrial Park Drive in Loogootee. The meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

Soil and Water meetings
The Martin County SWCD meets the third Monday of the month at the SWCD office located at Martin County Learning Center. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays except Thursdays when it is closed. Visit www.martinswcd.com or call at 295-3149.

ANIMAL SHELTER Pet of the Week



DIEGO is a male pit bull mix, 3-5 years old. He is very sweet, high energy. He would need to be tested with any potential dog siblings. He is NOT suited around cats. He is neutered, up to date on shots, heartworm/Lyme/e.canis negative and microchipped. Adoption fee is \$100. The shelter is open by appointment only. For more info, visit www.humanesocietyofmartincounty.org.

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Making A Difference



By Curt Johnson
 MCCF Director

-- THE DECISION TO GIVE --

Okay, so you've read my recent columns and hopefully understand, or already knew, that giving back to your community is a personal decision. It is a decision to which you should give some good thought. It is one that should be based on a passion for something you care about. It is about you as much as it is about the cause you are contributing toward. It can be framed up in the "who, what, where, when, why and how" of it all. So, think about it that way.

-- THE FRAMEWORK --

The "who" is someone or a cause that you want your giving to help.

The "what" is the amount are giving; any amount is great.

The "where" is which organization is going to be your vehicle to help you accomplish your goal.

The "when" is just that; do it now or do it later.

The "why" is that part that reaches into your heart and compels you to do something.

The "how" is the instrument or method that makes it happen; and it can be an immediate donation, giving of your time, or as a bequest of some fashion, all of which can be realized in many ways.

-- WE ARE HERE --

Your community foundation, the MCCF, can help you find your way through this process. Our mission is to provide you a service to meet your charitable goals in a way tailored to your financial interests. We have a host of funds that serve many causes to benefit our community. With those, and new funds, we can help provide most of the framework you need; you only have to provide the "what" and the "when".

-- WHAT WE HAVE --

So what causes are available to donate toward? Our funds are dedicated to helping many non-profit organizations and the people they serve. Some current beneficiaries are libraries, cemeteries, 4-H, food pantry support, schools, sports complexes, educational projects, churches, the historical society, humane society, expectant mothers, youth, performing arts, and scholarships covering a variety of educational pursuits.

-- WE CAN HELP YOU --

If there is something near and dear to your heart this is not currently covered, then we can help find a way to take care of it. And if you don't know exactly what to donate toward, we have unrestricted funds designed for that too; these will allow us to respond to changing and emergent needs of the community.

-- MORE INFORMATION --

For more information about the MCCF and how we can help you put your charitable giving plan into practice, please contact the MCCF Director, Curt Johnson, at 812-295-1022 or mccf@cfpartner.org.

You are also welcome to visit our webpage at www.cfpartner.org and also to "like" the MCCF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mccommunityfoundation.

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

Ballpark Clean-Up Help Wanted

The Town of Shoals Park Board is accepting names for the ballpark clean-up contract for the 2021 season.

Cleaning season is set as: April 1 thru October, 1 2021

Contracted terms:

\$275 per month for the season. A bonus check for the week of Catfish Festival will be issued.

Interested individuals can pick up a copy of the contract with expected duties and details and a name submittal form at the Shoals Town Hall located at 221 Low Street. Interested individuals will need to submit their name for consideration using the provided form to the Clerk-Treasurer's office at the Shoals Town Hall by Friday, March 26, 2021.

Any questions can be directed to the Shoals Clerk-Treasurer's office at 812-247-2110.

The City of Loogootee Park and Recreation Dept. is accepting applications for Pool Lifeguards

Applications may be picked up at Loogootee City Hall Mayor's Office or High School Offices at Loogootee, Shoals or Montgomery.

They may be dropped off at Loogootee Mayors office or in the Utility Office Drop Box at City Hall parking lot.



Applications need to be turned in by Friday, April 16, 2021.



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West Boggs Park Summer Employment - Come join A Great Team

Want to make some summer cash and have fun doing it?? West Boggs Park is hiring several seasonal positions for 2021! Positions pay starts at \$10.41/hour and may begin near the end of March lasting until the end of October. The hours will vary but employees must be willing to work weekends, holidays, and weekdays. All positions require excellent customer service skills and a strong work ethic. The following positions are available;

- Gatehouse/Customer Service Computer skills necessary)
- Programming/Day Camp Counselors —Creative, children oriented, lots of FUN!
- Maintenance for West Boggs Park

For more Information, please contact the West Boggs Park office. Applications are available on our website at the bottom of the homepage, at the office, by mail, or by email. Applications must be completely filled out and turned into the West Boggs Park gatehouse, main office, or by emailing info@westboggs.com West Boggs Park is an equal opportunity employer.



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We have looked at three of the National Garden Bureau “Year of” designations in recent columns. This week, we will discuss the two remaining categories.

In the bulb category, 2021 is the Year of the Hyacinth. Hyacinths are a rather large bulbs that sprout broad, grass-like leaves in late winter or early spring. The leaves form a rosette, and a short stem will rise from the center of the rosette. That stem will ultimately be covered with many fragrant flowers. In fact, the fragrance is so sweet that hyacinths are a major crop in the perfume-producing regions. Hyacinth blooms occur in white and about every color of the rainbow except true blue. The flowers will last for a few days but are well-worth including in a garden for the bright colors they provide and the intoxicating fragrance.

Hyacinth bulbs are planted in the fall to produce flowers in the spring. The bulbs are poisonous, so hyacinth bulbs are generally ignored by burrowing pests. Some people claim that mixing hyacinth bulbs in with tulips will help deter pests from eating the tulip bulbs. Since the hyacinths generally bloom much earlier than tulips, they do not compete for attention and will inter-plant well.

There are several plants that are called hyacinths that are not true hyacinths. The

Keep wildlife wild this spring

It’s nearly spring and baby animals are beginning to be born across the Hoosier state. If you find young wildlife, remember:

-Adult animals rarely abandon their young. The parent may be out searching for food. Leaving young unattended is normal for many species.

-Do not hover to see if a parent comes back. Give the baby animal space and only check back periodically. Adult animals will not return if a person is standing nearby.

-Young wildlife should not be handled. They can carry diseases or parasites and are capable of inflicting damage by biting or scratching. Human scent can also alert predators to the young animal’s presence.

While rescuing young wildlife is legal, keeping them is not. Truly orphaned or injured wild animals must be given to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator within 24 hours to maximize their chance of survival.

The Department of Natural Resources does not provide services for orphaned or injured wildlife. If necessary, you can reach out to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator or allow nature to take its course. Permitted wildlife rehabilitators make the final decision on their ability to provide assistance. The goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to release wildlife back into the wild. Visit www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/files/fw-RehabList.pdf for a list of rehabilitators.

For more information, contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 317-232-4200 or dfw@dnr.IN.gov. If you need a wild animal control permit, please contact the DNR Permit Coordinator at 317-232-4102.



minor bulb, known commonly as grape hyacinth, is actually a muscari. Wood hyacinths are also known as Spanish bluebells. The bulbs from these false hyacinths are not poisonous. In fact, the bulbs from some of the false hyacinths are used as ingredients in some Middle Eastern foods.

If you did not plant hyacinths last fall, you may still be able to enjoy that sweet smell. Potted hyacinths will soon be available in the garden centers and some bulb sellers offer pre-chilled bulbs that may be planted now. Hyacinths will grow without soil and bowls of hyacinths are said to have decorated the tables at banquets given by Persian royalty in Biblical times.

In the shrub category, the National Garden Bureau has declared 2021 as the Year of the Hibiscus. Hibiscus is a member of the mallow family. There are many types of hibiscus, including annuals, herbaceous perennials, shrubs and small trees. Since we are dealing with the shrub category here, we will concentrate on the plants that grow as shrubs.

Hibiscus shrubs may be either tropical or hardy. The tropical varieties have large flowers that bring to mind Hawaii and other tropical places. In fact, a particular hardy hibiscus is the state flower of Hawaii. Potted tropical hibiscus are often found around swimming pools in the summer and may be over-wintered inside. I have a tropical hibiscus pot that contains three different colored flowers which have been braided together. It sometimes loses leaves in the house during the winter but has consistently recovered when moved out into a partially sunny site for the summer.

Hardy shrub hibiscus are generally known as altheas or, more commonly in this area, rose of Sharon. The flowers of the hardy hibiscus are white, pink or purple. Many have a red center. There are several cultivars with double flowers that resemble carnations. A few years ago, I purchased a hibiscus that had a definite bluish hue, but a true-blue hibiscus is still elusive for the breeders. At Sandhill Gardens, there are several hardy hibiscus, many of which have been here for many years. Hardy hibiscus are sometimes prone to seeding profusely, but are not really invasive. Many of the double-flowered cultivars are sterile and will not produce seeds. My favorite hardy hibiscus is one called Sugar Tip. The leaves have white variegation on the tips and the flowers are double pink. It was planted in memory of a friend who passed away several years ago and it has held its variegation for several years and each year seems to bear more flowers than the previous year.

Whether you plant any of the plants cited by the National Garden Bureau or plants recognized by other organizations, I urge you to make 2021 the Year of the Garden. Plant something beautiful.

Patoka Lake hosts Hike into Spring on March 20

Join Patoka Lake’s interpretive naturalist on Saturday, March 20 at 1 p.m. for a Hike into Spring, a 4-mile guided walk along the property’s Fitness Trail. This trail is an extension of the paved bike trail with some small patches of gravel. One participant will win a 2021 Annual Entrance Pass at the end of the hike.

Participants should meet at the modern campground parking lot next to the campground gatehouse. Face masks are required for this program because there may be portions of the trek where hikers are closer than 6 feet from each other. Participation is limited. Advance reg-

Reserved youth turkey hunts on DNR properties

Youth hunters (under age 18 on the day of the hunt) may apply for reserved turkey hunts during the special youth wild turkey hunting season on DNR properties from March 15-26.

The youth turkey season is April 17-18. A limit will be placed on the number of youth hunters allowed to hunt a respective property on each hunting day, in an attempt to provide quality hunts for participants. Interested hunters or an adult representing them must register in person or by phone during the normal office hours for the property they wish to hunt. Hunters are allowed to register for only one property.

Participating Fish & Wildlife areas include Atterbury, Chinook, Crosley, Deer Creek, Fairbanks Landing, Glendale, Goose Pond, Hillenbrand, Hovey Lake, Jasper-Pulaski, Kingsbury, LaSalle, Pigeon River, J. E. Roush Lake, Sugar Ridge, Tri-County, Wabashiki, Willow Slough and Winamac. Two reservoir properties, Mississinewa and Salamonie, will also take part in the hunts.

Those wanting to sign up for Chinook or Wabashiki hunts may register at Deer Creek FWA. Those wanting to sign up for Fairbanks Landing or Hillenbrand hunts may do so at Goose Pond FWA.

A drawing will be held on Wednesday, March 31 at properties where the number of registered hunters exceeds the spots available. A youth hunter may be drawn for either one or both hunt days, depending on the number of applicants. All applicants will be notified of drawing results by mail.

Applicants must possess a 2021 Youth Consolidated Hunting & Trapping Li-

Hoosier National Forest to conduct prescribed burns this spring

The U.S. Forest Service has begun to conduct seasonal prescribed burns to maintain, restore or improve early successional habitat, maintain wetlands, restore unique barrens ecosystems, and regenerate oak and hickory. Prescribed burns also improve soil health by recycling nutrients and reduce fuel loads, thereby lowering the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Approximately 5-6,000 acres are planned to receive prescribed burning in the spring of 2021 on National Forest System lands in the following counties: Brown, Crawford, Jackson, Martin, Monroe, Orange, and Perry.

U.S. Forest Service fire managers utilize National Weather Service data to determine the best days to burn to achieve desired goals and to maximize safety. Many specific conditions must be met for a burn to occur, including fuel moisture, wind speed and direction, and relative humidity, among other factors. Decisions are generally made the day of the burn once parameters have been measured or forecasted. Therefore,

registration is required by phone at 812-685-2447 or by emailing mmagary@dnr.IN.gov and must be made by 2 p.m. on Friday, March 19.

The entrance fee of \$7 per vehicle for Indiana residents and \$9 for out-of-state residents is required for the Newton Stewart State Recreation Area, located north of Wickliffe, Indiana on State Road 164. For more information about this program and other interpretive events, call the Nature Center at 812-685-2447.

Patoka Lake (on.IN.gov/patokalake) is at 3084 N. Dillard Road, Birdseye, IN 47513.

cense, a 2021 Non-Resident Youth Spring Turkey License with a game bird habitat stamp privilege, or Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License. Apprentice hunting licenses of the types named above also may be used.

Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until noon at properties in the Central Time Zone, and one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m. on properties in the Eastern Time Zone.

Youth hunters who are selected for the hunt may check in at any time each day until the end of legal hunting hours for that property. Properties will not have a daily “no-show” drawing. Hunters interested in possible unfilled quotas at a property should call that property for more information before showing up.

Youth hunters can take a bearded or male wild turkey. The youth must be accompanied by someone 18 or older.

The youth hunter may use any legal shotgun, bow and arrow or crossbow. The adult accompanying the youth hunter must not possess a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow while in the field. The accompanying adult must be licensed if they are assisting by calling or if the youth is using an apprentice license.

To register a youth for one of the hunts, the following information is needed: hunter’s name, type of license and license number, date(s) in which applying, mailing address, phone number, parent or guardian’s name, address, and phone number.

For property contact information, visit on.IN.gov/dfwproperties. To purchase a license, visit on.IN.gov/inhuntfish.

advance specific notification for a particular burn can be difficult. Forest staff notifies the public in the immediate area of the prescribed burn. The public is advised to check the forest’s social media accounts for announcements of burns at www.facebook.com/HoosierNF/ and <https://twitter.com/HoosierNF>. Maps and additional details of the burn areas will be available at the following website: <https://inciweb.nwcc.gov>.

All designated burn areas will not be accessible to the public on the day of the burn and for some time after the burn until the area is considered safe. If any hazards are identified within the burn area, the area may be inaccessible for several days for public safety. Burning may affect access to hunting areas. For your safety, please contact the Indiana Interagency Coordination Center dispatch (812-547-9262) if you plan to hunt or camp in or near prescribed burn areas. An unfortunate side effect of prescribed burning is smoke. Fire managers burn only under atmospheric conditions specified in a burn plan and rely on scientific data to choose days in which the impacts of smoke are minimized. Smoke plumes from a prescribed fire usually rise high into the air where the smoke dissipates. When smoke is present, motorists should reduce speeds and turn on headlights.

All burns are done under carefully planned prescriptions and protocols to mitigate the risk of an escaped fire and smoke exposure to communities. All planned activities have been carefully coordinated with county emergency management agencies. Forest neighbors who wish to be notified of a specific date of a burn, or those who wish to report medical conditions that could be affected by smoke, may contact the Indiana Interagency Coordination Center Dispatcher at 812-547-9262.

Grazing Bites

By Victor Shelton

NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

The two weeks in the middle of February either tested your patience with the weather and/or your winter contingency plan! I think I had personally gotten a bit too used to milder winter weather over the past few years and was more concerned about mud control and saturated soils than wintery monstrosities that started reminding me a bit of the winter of '78. In reality, it wasn't that bad, but the mixture of snow and ice in layers and extremely cold temperatures certainly tested your preparations.

Even though there has been some bitter cold weather the past few weeks, when the snow melted away, you had to be a bit surprised to see so much green still present in your pasture and lawn! I've noticed the same thing with some cover crops. Even species that we usually expect to winter kill normally are still hanging in there such as oats and radishes. Snow may be frozen and cold to the touch, but it can still provide some good insulation for plants underneath it. Perhaps it makes the statement, "blanket of snow" that much more fitting.

The weather, as far as I know, can't be controlled. I honestly hope that nobody ever figures out how to manipulate the weather either. I wouldn't trust anyone with that kind of power. The slight differences from season to season are quite interesting to watch and it keeps us on our toes. Most years, we have enough cold weather, particularly multiple nights with temperatures below 25 degrees, that puts most forages into winter dormancy.

Forages going into winter dormancy is actually a good thing. It allows the plant to rest from above ground forage growth and not utilize much energy from stored reserves. Those reserves will be needed soon to initiate the first new spring growth. If those reserves are continuously tapped into—especially before dormancy sets in for the winter—then you usually have slower and reduced growth in the spring until photosynthesis has kicked in enough on new growth to replenish energy reserves, then above ground growth can catch up if allowed to.

My wife has noted remarkable growth on some daffodils and questioned me if that was there prior to the mid-February snow. I honestly don't know. I wasn't paying that close attention to them and instead paid more attention to getting animals attended to during the snowy bluster. But she was correct, they were remarkably not only up through the ground and approaching almost four inches, but a few buds were also present. They are simply reacting to the weather around them. This is not the first time for them to do this and it is certainly not always a good thing either because I have seen them frozen, flowers nodding, after a heavy freeze while in full flower.

The question of the day isn't about daffodils, though, but forages, especially cool season forages and exactly what are they doing right now? New spring growth is mostly influenced by day length and temperature.

In response to a comment or question, "Don't you think that the grass seems greener after the snow melted away and is it growing," certainly caught my attention and made me stop and think a bit. It might still feel rather cool to most people, but it doesn't take much warmth, especially in soil temperature, to initiate some growth for cool season grasses. Soil temperatures much above freezing, especially with some warm sunny days and increasing daylight, can entice new growth. Soil temperatures above 50 degrees really promotes growth. So, first, what is the soil temperature now? That will depend a lot on where you are, temperatures and how much sun your fields are getting. A look at soil temperature of some bare ground on a late day of February early morning shows just a bit above freezing, but when taken midafternoon, it was

approaching almost 40 degrees. It can't maintain that temperature with nights still dropping down, but that is normal!

The melting of snow can add minute amounts of nitrogen to the sward but is for the most part insignificant. If I had to guess, and it is a guess, I'd assume perhaps a scanty five pounds at best. Major swings in soil temperature do stimulate microbial activity in the soil and energy. We might not notice this difference on a soil thermometer, but the plants do.

Now, that said, just because we have some new growth coming on in the pastures does not mean to let the livestock have at it. We are a good way from that yet. Grazing too early in the spring does nothing but remove some of that solar panel the plants need to start rebuilding sugar and growing new roots. The forages really need to be able to canopy over and get a good start before livestock start removing that top canopy or production will be reduced. Besides, it is early still, and there are some scattered snow patches just hanging around enticing some more.

Most producers with pasture or hay ground understand the concept of "frost-seeding" clover. Frost seeding is taking advantage of the freeze-thaw process of the soil during winter months. When water in the soil freezes, it moves upward, pushing some soil with it. This creates little pockets for seeds to fall into, especially slick smooth seeds like clover. This process provides a good environment for seed-to-soil contact and good conditions for that seed to grow later. Soils that have had a little more disturbance and that have small amounts of soil visible are subject to more heaving due to the lack of enough cover and therefore the seed takes better, but these fields will also usually require more rest prior to grazing in the spring because of it. We will most likely still have frost-seeding conditions yet, so if needed, get'r done.

If you already have some clover and are just enhancing what you have, then utilize improved varieties for the best results. If you don't have any clover presently, then you should inoculate the seed with the appropriate rhizobium. The seed may germinate and thrive without it, but it will do so much better if it is present, especially if one of the goals for planting the legume is as a nitrogen source for the grass component of the stand. Clovers add diversity, boost yields, provides pollinator loving plants to the pasture and there are some benefits, especially with red clover, in reducing or diluting endophyte-infected tall fescue issues.

I mentioned "preparation" for wintery conditions at the beginning. Utilizing proper nutrition is a priority. We may not spend any longer than we have to with the livestock on those days, but they don't have much choice. Energy requirements are higher, so it's a good time to feed the higher quality feed. Have hay marked or organized and ideally backed with forage sampling ahead of time. Supplement as needed to meet nutritional and energy needs.

Having your feeding area easily assessable, for any weather condition, is certainly also very advantageous. Keeping hay/baleage close to the feeding area and having good infrastructure for storage and movement is very beneficial, especially when things get snowy, icy or just muddy. Heavy use area sites and access roads suddenly appear and are very beneficial and worthwhile. Having a series of bales set out, where all you have to move is poly wire and perhaps a ring is also a great way to get through these situations if you have good soil conditions, ideally being dry or frozen.

In closing, spring is coming and will be here before we know it. Management does impact spring regrowth, so wait on grazing unless you still have stockpiled forage so you can maximize production. Keep on grazing!

Producers bullish about farmland values amid strong current conditions

BY KAMI GOODWIN

Purdue University News Service

Farmers continue to report strong current economic conditions on their farms, according to the February Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer. While the overall reading for the Ag Economy Barometer changed very little compared to January, down two points to a reading of 165 in February; the Index of Current Conditions remained near its all-time high at a reading of 200. Meanwhile, the Index of Future Expectations continued a four-month decline, down 20 percent from its October peak, to a reading of 148.

The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted February 15-19.

"The ongoing strength in ag commodity prices and farm income continue to support producers' perspective on current conditions," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture. "At the same time, concerns about possible policy changes affecting agriculture, and eroding confidence in future growth in ag trade, continue to weigh on producers' future expectations."

Producers are very bullish about farmland values. Fifty-one percent of respondents in February said they expect farmland values to rise during the next year, up 8 points from the January survey. U.S. farmers were also optimistic about the long-run trend in farmland values, as 62 percent of respondents indicated farmland values are likely to rise over the next five years.

That same bullishness spilled over into expectations for rising farmland cash rental rates in 2021. In February, more producers (36 percent) now say they expect cash rental rates to increase, compared to just 18 percent who felt that way in December. Those expecting rates to remain unchanged fell from 75 percent to 61 percent, the decrease primarily due to more producers' expecting rental rates to increase.

The percentage of farms expecting to see a better financial performance in 2021 compared to the prior year has been rising since last summer and on the February survey reached 37 percent, up 4 points from January and 25 points higher than last July. When asked about their perception of the most critical risk facing their operation, 29 percent ranked production, up 8 percent from February 2020, and 18 percent ranked financial risk, down 8 percent from one year ago.

Each winter the barometer survey asks respondents about plans for growth on their farms. This winter: Fifty percent of commercial-scale farms reported that they either have no plans to grow or plan to exit/retire in the next five years; 17 percent expect their farm operation to grow at a rate of less than 5 percent annu-

ally; 25 percent expect their operation to grow 5 percent-10 percent annually; and 9 percent expect their farm to grow more than 10 percent per year. Overall, Mintert said, these results point toward continued consolidation in the farm sector.

Although producers are optimistic about the current situation on their farms, confidence in the future continues to erode. Reasons behind the 20 percent decline in the Index of Future Expectations that has taken place since October appear centered on concerns about the long-term future for agricultural trade and uncertainty about a variety of policies affecting agriculture. In February, only 45 percent of farmers expected ag exports to increase over the next 5 years, down from 65 percent in October. The percentage expecting a favorable outcome to the U.S. trade dispute with China is also down, 37 percent in February compared with 65 percent in October.

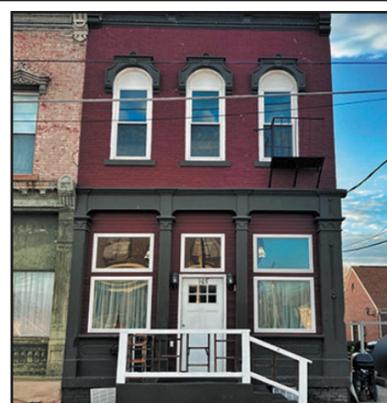
"Even though we have seen a recent 'ramp-up' in ag exports to China, producers remain worried about the future of ag trade," said Michael Langemeier, associate director of the Center for Commercial Agriculture. "They are also concerned about the possibility of more restrictive environmental regulations as well as higher estate and income taxes, all expressed on previous barometer surveys. Uncertainty about all these factors appears to be the motivation for the divergence between farmers' perspective on the current versus the future situation."

Interest in alternative protein sources has increased markedly over the last year. Respondents on the February survey were asked several questions to learn about their perspectives on the possible impact of alternative proteins on U.S. agriculture. More than half of producers indicated they expect to see alternative protein sources increase market share in the years ahead (55 percent expect a total protein market share of up to 10 percent; 15 percent expect total market share to exceed 10 percent) and, indicated that if the market share becomes significant, they think it's likely to reduce aggregate farm income.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report. The site also offers additional resources – such as past reports, charts and survey methodology – and a form to sign up for monthly barometer email updates and webinars.

Each month, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture provides a short video analysis of the barometer results, and for even more information, check out the Purdue Commercial AgCast podcast. It includes a detailed breakdown of each month's barometer, in addition to a discussion of recent agricultural news that impacts farmers. Available now.

The Ag Economy Barometer, Index of Current Conditions and Index of Future Expectations are available on the Bloomberg Terminal under the following ticker symbols: AGECBARO, AGEC-CURC and AGECFTEX.



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SHOALS HIGH SCHOOL



ALAN COOK

Alan Edward Cook II is the son of Edward and Angela Cook. He has two siblings, Lydia and Hannah. While in high school, Alan participated in Robotics, Beta Club, Academic Team, and Spell Bowl. His favorite memory is playing basketball at lunch and going to Robotics Competitions. After graduation, Alan plans to go to college for Mechanical Engineering.



TY DOWNEY

Tyberius William Downey is the son of Cynthia VanBibber and Tony Downey. He has two siblings, Alex and Colt. While in high school, Ty participated in soccer, baseball, Beta Club, Spanish Club, Band, and Media. His favorite memory is his freshman year Florida band trip and all the fun things they got to do. After graduation, Ty plans on attending the University of Montana for wildlife biology and pursuing a career in that field.



OLIVIA ALCORN

Olivia Laine Alcorn is the daughter of Aaron Alcorn and Terri Alcorn. She has two siblings, Nici Key and Hannah Albright. While in high school, Olivia participated in cheerleading, volleyball, track, FTC Robotics, Student Council, Beta Club, Class Officer, Spanish Club, SADD, and Impact Club. Her favorite memory is cheering at the boys basketball sectional championship game her junior year. After graduation, Olivia plans to attend Indiana State University and major in Business Administration.



ALANA ROYSTON

Alana Cristine Royston is the daughter of Alan Royston and Cristy & Bobby Jenkins. She has four siblings, Jessica Wagler, Jess Starnes, Nicole Jones and Cohen Royston. While in high school, she participated in dance and Beta. Alana's favorite memories in high school were taking field trips to colleges, hanging out with friends, and making good memories in the hallway with friends during lunch. After graduation, Alana is still uncertain what she wants to study. Her studies of interests include, sports management, accounting, or cosmetology.



CASSIDY WITT

Cassidy Marie Witt is the granddaughter of Don and Phyllis Witt and the daughter of Tim Witt. She has one brother, Donnie Witt. While in high school, Cassidy participated in basketball, softball, SAAD, FFA, Beta, Spanish Club, and Pep Club. Her favorite memory in high school is hitting a home run against Loogootee every year in softball. After graduation, Cassidy plans to attend Indiana University to become a labor and delivery nurse and get a position at IU Health Bloomington as a pediatrics/NICU nurse. She plans to also get married and start a family.



MALLORY WAGGONER

Mallory Ann Waggoner is the daughter of William and Sue Waggoner. She has one sibling, Kristen Waggoner. In high school, Mallory participated in Track, Volleyball, Band, Beta, Spanish Club, Robotics, and was the Class of 2021 Vice President. Her favorite high school memories include seeing the play 12 Angry Men with her junior English class, and playing in Pep Band. After graduation, Mallory plans to attend Vincennes University and major in business.

National unemployment at 6.2 percent for February

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 379,000 in February, and the unemployment rate was little changed at 6.2 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week.

The labor market continued to reflect the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

In February, most of the job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, with smaller gains in temporary help services, health care and social assistance, retail trade, and manufacturing. Employment declined in state and local government education, construction, and mining.

This news release presents statistics from two monthly surveys. The household survey measures labor force status, including unemployment, by demographic characteristics. The establishment survey measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry.

Household Survey Data

Both the unemployment rate, at 6.2 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, at 10.0 million, changed little in February. Although both measures are much lower than their April 2020 highs, they remain well above their pre-pandemic levels in February 2020 (3.5 percent and 5.7 million, respectively).

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rate for Asians declined to 5.1 percent in February. The rates for adult men (6.0 percent), adult women (5.9 percent), teenagers (13.9 percent), Whites (5.6 percent), Blacks (9.9 percent), and Hispanics (8.5 percent) showed little or no change.

Among the unemployed, the number of persons on temporary layoff fell by 517,000 in February to 2.2 million. This measure is 1.5 million higher than the level a year earlier but is down considerably from the recent high of 18.0 million in April 2020. The number of permanent job losers, at 3.5 million, was essentially unchanged in February but is 2.2 million higher than a year earlier.

The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more), at 4.1 million, changed little over the month but is up by 3.0 million over the year. In February, these long-term unemployed accounted for 41.5 percent of the total unemployed. The number of persons jobless less than 5 weeks, at 2.2 million, also changed little over the month.

The labor force participation rate remained at 61.4 percent in February. This measure is 1.9 percentage points lower than the value a year earlier. The employment-population ratio, at 57.6 percent, changed little over the month but is down by 3.5 percentage points over the year.

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons, at 6.1 million, changed little in February but is up by 1.7 million over the year. These individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part time because their hours had been reduced or they were unable to find full-time jobs.

In February, the number of persons not in the labor force who currently want a job was 6.9 million, little changed over the month but up by 1.9 million over the year. These individuals were not counted as unemployed because they were not actively looking for work during the last 4 weeks or were unavailable to take a job.

Among those not in the labor force who currently want a job, the number of persons marginally attached to the labor force, at 1.9 million, was essentially unchanged in February but is up by 453,000 over the year. These individuals wanted and were available for work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but had not looked for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. The number of discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached who believed that no jobs were

available for them, was 522,000 in February, little changed from the previous month but up by 121,000 over the year.

Household Survey Supplemental Data

In February, 22.7 percent of employed persons teleworked because of the coronavirus pandemic, down from 23.2 percent in January. These data refer to employed persons who teleworked or worked at home for pay at some point in the last 4 weeks specifically because of the pandemic.

In February, 13.3 million persons reported that they had been unable to work because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic—that is, they did not work at all or worked fewer hours at some point in the last 4 weeks due to the pandemic.

This measure is down from 14.8 million in January. Among those who reported in February that they were unable to work because of pandemic-related closures or lost business, 10.5 percent received at least some pay from their employer for the hours not worked, down from 12.7 percent in January.

Among those not in the labor force in February, 4.2 million persons were prevented from looking for work due to the pandemic. This measure is down from 4.7 million in January.

(To be counted as unemployed, by definition, individuals must be either actively looking for work or on temporary layoff.)

These supplemental data come from questions added to the household survey beginning in May 2020 to help gauge the effects of the pandemic on the labor market. The data are not seasonally adjusted. Tables with estimates from the supplemental questions for all months are available online at www.bls.gov/cps/effects-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic.htm.

Establishment Survey Data

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 379,000 in February but is down by 9.5 million, or 6.2 percent, from its pre-pandemic level in February 2020. In February of this year, most of the job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, with smaller gains in temporary help services, health care and social assistance, retail trade, and manufacturing. Employment declined in state and local government education, construction, and mining.

In February, employment changed little in other major industries, including wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, information, financial activities, and other services.

In February, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased by 7 cents to \$30.01. Average hourly earnings for private-sector production and nonsupervisory employees, at \$25.19, changed little (+4 cents). The large employment fluctuations over the past year—especially in industries with lower-paid workers—complicate the analysis of recent trends in average hourly earnings.

The average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls declined by 0.3 hour to 34.6 hours in February. In manufacturing, the workweek declined by 0.2 hour to 40.2 hours, and overtime declined by 0.1 hour to 3.1 hours. The average workweek for production and nonsupervisory employees on private nonfarm payrolls declined by 0.4 hour to 34.0 hours.

The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for December was revised down by 79,000, from -227,000 to -306,000, and the change for January was revised up by 117,000, from +49,000 to +166,000. With these revisions, employment in December and January combined was 38,000 higher than previously reported. (Monthly revisions result from additional reports received from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates and from the recalculation of seasonal factors.)